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Five of the Most Fashionable Gowns of Five of the Most Fashionable Women of New York.



MRS. LORILLARD SPENCER.

MRS. TEMPLE MERRITT

MRS. JOHN R. DREXEL

MRS. CLARENCE MACKAY

MRS. FREDERICK BENEDICT

SOCIETY women are engaged in a white chignon laid in the finest of hand-fashable battle of gowns this Summer to outdo each other in magnificence.

Dresses were never so elaborate as they are this year. The materials are sheer enough to blow away.

Lace is the craze of the hour.

Real jewels are the favorite trimming. Hard work is in evidence everywhere. And this is the reason why it takes just twice as long to make a costume this June as it did last and just twice as much money to own one.

This is a lace Summer. Entire gowns are made of costly lace. Others are trimmed with hundreds of yards of lace insertion or lace flounces. The heavy, coarse laces, like Renaissance gowns, are the most in vogue for the all-lace gowns. But the very fluffiest frocks are trimmed with appliques of cobweb lace in separate designs or with myriads of wee ruffles or tiny ruchings of lace so fine that it looks to be the work of fairies.

Mrs. Clarence Mackay's Clinging Gown, All of Lace.

Mrs. Clarence Mackay is wearing one of the most striking lace gowns of the season. It is of heavy, rich, creamy white lace. The raised design has the effect of being applied upon the glossy white satin foundation. The gown clings to the figure in the fashionable manner of the moment. The lace forms a deep double over the skirt, but it is not long enough to hide entirely a pillow petticoat of white chiffon which peeps out beneath the lace all around the foot of the gown.

The clinging drapery with a fluffy petticoat beneath is a French caprice of fashion just now in special favor.

In Mrs. Mackay's gown the petticoat is white, but not infrequently it is seen in some delicate color.

One new idea is to have the lace overskirt draped over a petticoat made of tulle, but so fashioned that it looks like a mass of filmy green leaves, one tumbling over the other. Then there are the petticoats worn with lace gowns, which have the effect of being made of a mass of crumpled lace in varying shades of pink.

Back to Mrs. Mackay's lace gown, the bodice is equally as effective. Her figure is enveloped in

and sleeves, is put on so that each band comes to a point both at the back and front. The grenadine is made over pink silk a shade or two lighter, and where the lace insertion appears the grenadine is cut away in order that the design of the lace may stand out plainly and the color of the silk background show. The skirt is made with a deep embroidered black chiffon flounce, headed with a bit of a soft black ruching.

The gown is a princess robe and fastens up the back. The high collar, belt and bow are black satin.

Mrs. Merritt's Frocks, Trimmed With Valuable Imported Lace.

Mrs. Temple Merritt, another of New York's beautifully gowned women, has a little silk frock this Summer which is original because of its lace trimming.

The costume is made of blue figured foulard silk. It is trimmed not only with lace flounces, but with a curious pattern of very open work lace shaped in curves. This lace cannot be bought in the shops. It is sold only to the most exclusive of the dressmakers by importers, who charge for it extravagant prices.

The curved lace, which is applied upon the silk, trims not only the skirt, but the bodice and sleeves. The same pattern of

lace, only in flounces, trims the demitained skirt. The collar and belt are of cavalry yellow velvet.

With this costume Mrs. Merritt wears a transparent black lace hat, trimmed with blinets and buttercups.

Mrs. Benedict's Real Turquoise Buttons.

Glistening spangles and real jewels add

to the beauty of one of Mrs. Frederick H. Benedict's fluffiest all black gowns. The dress is of black chiffon and the draped bodice is fastened with real turquoise buttons, set with small diamonds. The turquoise are

as big as twenty-five cent pieces.

The skirt is spangled in black to simulate an overskirt and is edged with a wee black chiffon ruching. The yoke and

one of the most expensive worn by society this season.

Mrs. Lorillard Spencer's Little Blue Eton Jacket.

Mrs. Lorillard Spencer, who is noted for her good looks, her good clothes, and her good acts, has a little imported blue Eton jacket which is the admiration of all her friends.

It is part of one of her walking costumes. It has the effect of being made of dark blue transparent passementerie. But in reality, it is cloth cut out in a conventional separate design. The edges of each piece are richly embroidered in the same shade of blue silk as the cloth. The designs are fastened together a little apart, so that the waist worn beneath shows here and there. By changing the waist the jacket changes in effect.

Mrs. Lorillard Spencer frequently wears this little imported Eton with a pale blue silk shirt waist and a dark blue cloth skirt made with an extension flounce.

The Duchess of York was, in her girlhood, considered somewhat dowdy, but then means were limited at White Lodge, and the young Princess thought more of the good she could do for her neighbors than the garments in which she herself should be clad. Since her marriage she has, of course, occupied a wholly different position, and she dresses accordingly, invariably with the greatest elegance and good taste. She is bright-looking rather than beautiful, and she has the family tendency to embonpoint, but she has not, as the Duchess of York, been unsuccessful in maintaining the high standard in dress set by her perennially young and lovely mother-in-law.

The Princess of Wales has taught her daughters to dress well since their advent into society, although as growing girls their garments were Quaker-like in material and make. The lively and pretty Princess Charles of Denmark is, however, the only one of the three who cares in the least for a brave display of fluff; the Duchess of Fife and the Princess Victoria of Wales being usually as quietly gowned as is consistent with their exalted station, and being never so happy as when arrayed in the most inconspicuous of tailor-made dresses—conspicuous, nevertheless, for their quiet, wonderful smartness of cut, and the perfect, slim grace of the figures they cover.

The Duchess of Albany has, of course, been obliged to dress as a widow since her husband's death, as the Queen-mother is extremely strict upon this point. Of late days, and at exceptional times, such as the Diamond Jubilee festivities, her happy-faced, plump Royal Highness, has been permitted to don the garb of comparatively

modified woe, and has evinced a rather pretty taste, a little bit offset by her German matronliness of form, and her want of what is commonly called "style."

The Duchess of Connaught is inclined to be indiscriminate in her choice of a wardrobe, and lacks the distinction that is known as putting on and carrying one's clothes well.

The Dowager Empress of Russia, like her sister, has always dressed exquisitely and in the richest materials. The wife of the reigning Czar is obliged, for reasons of State, to be both carefully and expensively robed, but she finds little evident pleasure in splendor, and wears her clothes somewhat listlessly, her lack of interest taking much from the Imperial effect.

The Empress of Germany is reputed to be the worst dressed woman of her rank, or of ranks many degrees lower, in Europe, although she spends probably as much money as those who present a more admired aspect to the world. In a differing way she cares as little for pomp and cir-

cumstance as her neighbor of Russia; she is a good German frau, the best of wives and mothers and housekeepers, but an Empress no whit.

The Queen of Portugal dresses well and shows her clothes to advantage, being the handsomest sovereign of her generation. Another royal lady whose taste in dress and whose beauty were once the talk of Europe, and who has changed sadly, is the ex-Empress Eugenie of France. There is no doubt that at one time she spent more money upon her frocks than would have sufficed to feed half the poor of Paris, and that, like Marie Antoinette before her, she contributed not a little by her extravagance to the downfall of the French Empire. In those days, poor woman, she was a being worth dressing stately and worth travelling far to see.

There is little of that left now to the widowed, the dethroned, the exiled, and the childless wreck whom we have often seen in all the trappings of deepest woe, and who is said to wear black garments

even next to her skin.

The Queen of Italy, who was once exceedingly handsome, but who has grown coarse looking with years, as is the way of Southern women, has, or had, the reputation of being the most extravagant woman on earth in the matter of personal adornment. She has scarcely ever worn anything but white, but has, within recent days, become impressed with the fact, that she is too old for such exclusiveness. There is a pretty story told of how when she could no longer keep on the throne to the King, his gallant reply was to have a box forwarded from Paris containing several newly fashioned and magnificent dresses, all of them white. This courtesy revived her youth and spirit.

This Queen's daughter-in-law, the dark-haired, dark-eyed Princess of Naples, is also speedily acquiring a name as a taste-ful dresser, and she was acknowledged to be the best gowned woman of all the royalities who showed themselves to Londoners on Jubilee Day.

HOW ROYAL WOMEN DRESS.